AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an active macromolecular principle, and

(b) an aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer chosen from butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is present in an amount by weight greater than or equal to that of the active macromolecular principle.

2. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an active macromolecular principle,

(b) an aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer chosen from propyl gallate, butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is present in an amount by weight greater than or equal to that of the active macromolecular principle, and

(c) a solubilisation aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media.

3. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the mixture comprises less than 5% by weight of water.

4. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is coated with an enteric coating which becomes permeable at a pH of from 3 to 7.

5. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises at least 1% by weight of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer.

6. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the ratio by weight of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer to active macromolecular principle is at least 5:1.

7. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture is in the form of a solution or a microparticulate dispersion.

8. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture is in solid form.

9. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the active macromolecular principle is a polypeptide or protein, polynucleotide, polysaccharide or a mixture thereof.

10. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is chosen from BHT, BHA and analogues and derivatives thereof, including analogues and derivatives of hydroxy toluene or hydroxy anisole where the methyl group or the methoxy group linked to the aromatic ring and/or the hydrogen ortho to the hydroxyl group are replaced by linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C1-12 alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl, either unsubstituted or substituted in any position, especially by halogen atoms.

11. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 9~~ claim 2, wherein the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer is propyl gallate or an analogue or a derivative thereof, including esters of gallic acid, where the esters may be linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alLylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl esters, and the compounds are optionally substituted with halogen, linear or branched chain C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-12} alkyloxy, C_{1-12} alkylthio or C_{2-12} alkenyl esters.

12. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claims 2 to 11~~ claim 2, where the solubilisation aid is chosen from a bile acid or salt, benzyl alcohol, phenyl ethanol, phenoxyethanol, transcutol and isopropanol.

13. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, growth hormone, parathyroid

hormone, or erythropoeitin, and derivatives and analogues, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

14. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

15. (original) A composition according to claim 14, where the active macromolecular principle is insulin or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin and the composition further comprises an insulin sensitizing agent.

16. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, for use in the therapeutic or diagnostic treatment of the human or animal body.

17. (original) Use, in a pharmaceutical composition, of an aromatic alcohol chosen from butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof as an enhancer for the absorption of a macromolecule across the intestinal wall.

18. (original) Use of an aromatic alcohol chosen from butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof in the manufacture of

a medicament containing an active macromolecular principle, in order to enhance absorption of the active macromolecular principle into the human or animal body.

19. (original) Use, in a pharmaceutical composition, of an aromatic alcohol chosen from propyl gallate, butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof together with a solubilisation aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media as an enhancer for the absorption of macromolecules across the intestinal wall.

20. (original) Use of an aromatic alcohol chosen from propyl gallate, butylated hydroxy toluene, butylated hydroxy anisole and analogues and derivatives thereof together with a solubilisation aid capable of increasing the solubility of the aromatic alcohol absorption enhancer in aqueous media in the manufacture of a medicament containing an active macromolecular principle, in order to enhance absorption of the active macromolecular principle into the human or animal body.

21. (currently amended) Use according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 20~~ claim 17, wherein the composition comprises less that 5% by weight of water.

22. (currently amended) Use according to ~~any of claims 19 or 20~~ claim 19, wherein the solubilisation aid is chosen from a conjugated bile acid or salt, benzylalcohol, phenylethanol, phenoxyethanol, transcutol and isopropanol.

23. (currently amended) Use according to ~~any of claims 18 or 20~~ claim 18, wherein the medicament is provided in the form of a solution, as a microparticulate dispersion or as a solid.

24. (currently amended) Use according to ~~any of claims 17 to 23~~ claim 17, wherein the macromolecule to be absorbed/active macromolecular principle is a polypeptide or protein, polynuclcotide, polysaccharide or a mixture thereof.

25. (original) Use according to claim 24, wherein the macromolecule to be absorbed/active macromolecular principle to be absorbed is chosen from insulin, calcitonin, growth hormone, parathyroid hormone and erythropoeitin, and derivatives and analogues thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

26. (original) Use according to claim 25, wherein the macromolecule to be absorbed/active macromolecular principle to be absorbed is insulin, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources, conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin.

27. (original) Use according to claim 26, wherein the macromolecular principle is insulin or a derivative or an analogue thereof, either synthetic or from natural sources,

conforming to structures derived from either human or animal origin, and an insulin sensitizing agent is also present.

28. (currently amended) A method of enhancing the absorption of an active macromolecular principle in a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient a composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1.

29. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient suffering from a condition or disease treatable by administration of a composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1.